

GREETINGS FROM STATE SENATOR BILL HARDIMAN.....

Dear Friends,

I would like to inform you of what has been taking place in Lansing over the past couple of weeks.

RESOLUTIONS SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH, MICHIGAN MILITARY TROOPS

Prior to the United States engaging in war with Iraq the Senate passed this week two Resolutions expressing support for President George W. Bush and Michigan troops and their families. Senate Resolution 37 offers support for President Bush's strategy for protecting the security of the United States through efforts in Iraq and to express support for Michigan troops. SR 37 will be sent to the President of the United States, United States Senate and United States House of Representatives. Senate Resolution 38 expressed support for Michigan troops and their families, and was unanimously approved. SR 38 will be sent to the Michigan Department of Military Affairs.

"Our nation enters this conflict reluctantly, yet our purpose is sure. (We) will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens peace" said President Bush. As we are now fully engaged in war with Iraq I ask as a Vietnam Veteran if anyone knows of a soldier fighting in the Middle East that you please send their name and address to my office, so that I may write a quick note thanking them for their exemplary service to our country.

SENATE BILL 135 PASSES SENATE

I sponsored Senate Bill 135 which passed unanimously on the Senate Floor on Thursday, March 13, 2003. The purpose of the bill was to end the confusion over the homestead property tax exemption. Homeowners are able to claim an exemption under Proposal A to pay only six mills for the State Education Tax instead of 24 mills for non-homestead property. SB 135 was part of a package of "clean-up" bills to change this wording.

Many people were confused between this exemption and the homestead property tax credit, and were not properly filing for the exemption because they didn't think they would qualify. Senate Bill 135 changes the term from "homestead exemption" to "principal residence", and this should be helpful to seniors and others who may have missed this tax break. Senate Bill 135 was approved both in committee and on the Senate floor without a single Nay vote.

NO CALL LIST

On March 11, 2003 President Bush signed into law the National "Do Not Call" Registry. This law takes effect March 29th. In July, consumers can begin registering for free online or by calling a toll-free number. In September, telemarketers and other sellers will have access to the registry. They will be required to scrub their call lists against the National "Do Not Call" Registry at least once every 90 days. In October, the Federal Trade Commission and the States will start to enforce the National "Do Not Call" Registry provisions of the Amended Telemarketing Sales Rule. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$11,000 per violation. At this point, consumers on the registry should start to get fewer telemarketing calls.

The Senate is currently investigating integrating the Michigan law with the new Federal legislation, to ensure consumers have the strongest "Do Not Call" legislation.

SENATE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE OPERATION ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Created to provide families of deployed military personnel information on financial, emotional and spiritual support available in Michigan communities, Operation Adopt-A-Family was introduced during a formal press conference this week by members of the Senate Republican Caucus. The operation will provide help for families in three ways: local organizations will be enlisted to help families alleviate hardships directly resulting from the deployment of their spouses or parents; partnerships will be formed between local organizations and public service groups to maintain an "adoptive" relationship with the families of Michigan's deployed military personnel; and support will be generated from the public and the Legislature to provide funding for the Family Support Network. Families that need assistance and organizations who want to participate are encouraged to contact their state legislators for information.

LAND USE PACKAGE INTRODUCED

Senate Republicans this week introduced a land use package that helps protect farmland from development, offers property and income tax incentives for donations of land and calls on Congress to pass legislation to protect open land and wildlife habitat. Also included in the package is legislation to help farmers with financial burdens by refraining from valuing their land at highest or best use and a bill to sunset the Land Division Act. The legislative package consists of six bills and two resolutions. Senate Bills 301-306, Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 and Senate Resolution 39 await committee consideration.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Hardiman Herald by Senator Bill Hardiman is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of his activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact Senator Hardiman's office. Phone: (866) 305-2129. Fax: (517) 373-5801. E-mail: senbhardiman@senate.michigan.gov. Mail: P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, Michigan 48913.

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